

8 February 1977

NOTE FOR: NIO/LA

SUBJECT : Release of Certain Panamanian Estimates to the Senate Select Committee Staff

1. I discussed the problem with Dick Lehman this morning and it is his opinion that we cannot withhold SNIE 84-1-77 from the Committee because its Key Judgments have already appeared in the Daily. There is, however, at the DCI's initiative, a new procedure for releasing all estimates to Congress -- i.e., Dick Lehman must bring a recommendation for release or non-release to the 9:00 a.m. Executive Council Meeting. The DCI will thus decide with the advice of his Executive Board. Dick proposes to follow this procedure on the request for the Panamanian estimates.

2. Would you please, therefore, review each of the past estimates and prepare a recommendation for Mr. Lehman as to the releasability to Congress of each. Mr. Lehman counsels that such factors as an estimate's having already been released in the Daily or having been overtaken by events should be considered. Can a case be made for withholding any of these estimates?

[Redacted]

EO/DCI/NI

STAT

19